



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

## SCIENCE:

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF ALL THE ARTS AND SCIENCES.

PUBLISHED BY

N. D. C. HODGES,

874 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—United States and Canada.....\$3.50 a year.  
Great Britain and Europe.....4.50 a year.

Communications will be welcomed from any quarter. Abstracts of scientific papers are solicited, and one hundred copies of the issue containing such will be mailed the author on request in advance. Rejected manuscripts will be returned to the authors only when the requisite amount of postage accompanies the manuscript. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guaranty of good faith. We do not hold ourselves responsible for any view or opinions expressed in the communications of our correspondents.

Attention is called to the "Wants" column. It is invaluable to those who use it in soliciting information or seeking new positions. The name and address of applicants should be given in full, so that answers will go direct to them. The "Exchange" column is likewise open.

For Advertising Rates apply to HENRY F. TAYLOR, 47 Lafayette Place, New York.

## THE DE LAINCEL FUND FOR THE STUDY OF THE MAYA LANGUAGE AND ITS GRAPHIC SYSTEM.

BY WM. M. AUGNEY.

THE de Laincel Fund, so-named, after a relative, by a gentleman of Philadelphia, now residing in Mexico, who contributes handsomely to its support, has for its object a thorough study of the graphic system of the ancient Mayas, by collecting vocabularies of that language and its dialects, and obtaining reliable artistic reproductions, by means of photographs, of the ancient cities and mural inscriptions of Central America, also photographing and copying ancient manuscripts or other material which will be of service to students in this special field of research.

The work will be carried on under the direction of an advisory committee, to be chosen from among ethnologists who are authorities upon, and students of, the Maya language, its paleography and art.

The exploration of the fund will be carried on under the direction of Dr. Hilborne T. Cresson of Philadelphia, well known as an ethnologist in America and Europe. The result of his researches have at times been published by the Peabody Museum, where for the past five years he has been a special assistant, working under the direction of Professor F. W. Putnam of Harvard University. Dr. Cresson's artistic training at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, in the ateliers of the sculptor Alexander Dumont, and the painter J. Leon Gerome (his works having been exposed in the Salon of 1877), joined to that of an accomplished French and Spanish scholar, especially capacitates him for this line of research. He has also for some years past been studying the Maya language under the direction of so distinguished an authority as Professor Daniel G. Brinton, and a good basis has thus been obtained for future research.

The de Laincel Fund will act in conjunction with some of our leading American institutions, yet to be determined upon, or independently, as its patron may deem best. The work will be carried on during the healthy season in the south, adopting the plan already pursued by other exploring

parties—that of carrying out its investigations during those months which are best suited to the sanitary condition of its workers.

Secretary's office, 519 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, June 27.

## CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.—IX.

[Edited by D. G. Brinton, M.D., LL.D.]

## The Peruvian Languages

Now that the great work of Dr. E. W. Middendorf on the Peruvian languages has been brought to a conclusion by the publication of the sixth and last volume, that on the Muchik (or Chimu or Yunca) tongue, the high value of this contribution to American ethnology should be urged on the scientific world.

Dr. Middendorf is a medical man who practised his profession many years ago in various parts of Peru, making a study of the native dialects his favorite recreation. He thus became practically familiar with them as living tongues, and backed up that knowledge by an acquaintance with such literature as they possessed. The results of this long devotion are now before us in six large octavo volumes, published by Brockhaus, Leipzig, and counting up in all to nearly 2,400 pages of handsomely printed material. The languages considered are the Kechua, the Aymara, and the Chimu, with an appendix on the Chibcha. There is an ample supply of grammatical analyses, texts, phrases, and, of the Kechua, a copius Kechua-German-Spanish dictionary. That the Aymara and Chimu vocabularies are not arranged alphabetically must be regarded as a blemish. One of the volumes contains the original text and a German translation of the drama of Ollanta, believed by many to be a genuine specimen of a native, pre-Columbian, dramatic production. There are also many songs and specimens of prose writings in the same tongue. Taking Middendorf's practical observations along with Tschudi's "Organismus der Kechua Sprache," the student will find himself well equipped to master this interesting idiom.

## The Orientation of Primitive Structures.

The study of the relative directions which the walls and angles of ancient structures bear to the cardinal points has scarcely yet received the attention from archæologists which it merits.

Several varieties of this "orientation," as it is termed, are to be found, each with its own meaning. The ancient Egyptian *mastabas* and pyramids have their sides facing the cardinal points. This arose from the desire of having the door in the centre of the eastern side to face the rising sun, and the western door, *sta*, to face the setting sun, as it was through the latter that the god Anubis conducted the soul to the other world. On the other hand, the Babylonians and Assyrians directed the angles, and not the sides, of their temples to the cardinal points, for what occult reason is not clear. Again, Mr. J. Walter Fewkes has found that the *kipas*, or sacred chambers, of the Tusayan Indians at the Moqui Pueblo are oriented north-east and south-west. This he at first thought was owing to the character of the bluff, but there are reasons to believe it of a ceremonial origin.

Some curious observations in this connection are reported by Mr. Robert M. Swan, about the Zimbabwe ruins, in the last number of the *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society*. He found a series of ornaments on the walls of the great temple so disposed that one group would receive directly the sun's rays at his rising and another at his setting at the period of the winter solstice, when these points in that